



USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh) Bagh Year Two Quarter 3 Summary of Progress



Smithsonian
Institution



USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh)

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Acronyms

ACME	Accelerating Commitment for Monitoring and Evaluation
AWP	Annual Work Plan
Bagh	USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (USAID's Bagh Activity)
BBG	Bangladesh Border Guard
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forest
COP	Chief of Party
CREL	Climate Resilient Ecosystem and Livelihoods
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
ETRT	Emergency Tiger Response Team
EU	European Union
FD	Forest Department
FTRT	Forest Tiger Response Team
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPS	Global Positioning System
HTC	Human Tiger Conflict
ICT	Institutional Capacity Development and Training
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
SAC	Special Award Condition
SCBI	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
SEALS	Sundarbans Environment and Livelihood Support
SERC	Smithsonian Environment Research Center
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Research Tool
SOW	Scope of work
SRCWP	South Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TPP	Technical Project Proforma
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VRT	Village Tiger Response Team
WCCU	Wildlife Crime Control Unit
WCS	World Conservation Society
WTS	Wildlife Technical Specialist
ZPO	Zoological Park Organization

Introduction

USAID's Bagh Activity contributes to protection of the tigers and conservation of the Sundarbans, with the overall goal of conserving biodiversity of Bangladesh. Bagh is a four-year project implemented by WildTeam in partnership with the FD of the MoEF, USAID, Smithsonian Institution and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. This is Year 2's Third Quarter report of project implementation. The report highlights key accomplishments during the implementation period of July 1-September 30, 2015.

Quarter 3 Summary of Progress

Project Management Activity

The Bagh Activity's new organizational chart is in full effect, and recruiting efforts have been made for the new positions included in the chart.

- The new finance specialist (key position) was approved by USAID and started August 9, 2015.
- The team also filled the positions of office manager and operations specialist for the Dhaka office, as well as an administrative and logistics assistant coordinator for the Khulna office. The team members started in August 2015.
- WildTeam continues to work closely with UNOPS, to finalize process maps, tools and reviews of the current policies to ensure a strong foundation and structure.
- In coordination with the WildTeam head office, there have successfully been four Process Improvement Coordination Committee (PICC) meetings on July 14, July 28, August 26 and September 9, 2015, in Quarter 3. This committee aims at providing the clear direction and leadership required to support progress on the Special Award Conditions and discuss operational needs for WildTeam and Bagh that UNOPS is providing.
- Bagh welcomes consultant, Ms. Zelma Harrison, to the office to provide administrative and financial support at the project and WildTeam HO level. Based on her scope of work, she reviewed the existing WildTeam HO and Bagh Activity structure, job descriptions and current work distribution, responsibilities and expectations, and incorporated best practices in finalizing a Delegation of Authority matrix, Segregation of Duties table and descriptive narrative, finalizing day-to-day templates and guidelines based on process maps created by the team through UNOPS support as well as reviewed and provided feedback on all policy manuals and handbooks.
- Bagh's COP and DCOP worked closely with UNOPS and WildTeam head office to discuss the current needs in the WildTeam HO for reviewing HR, procurement and finance assistance. In terms of operational support, at the end of quarter 3, UNOPS and the DCOP discussed revising the 26 process map guidelines and templates to revise according to the team's feedback, and work on new process maps of 'services' that are a day-to-day need, but not yet created or established. This will continue throughout Quarter 4.
- UNOPS conducted several trainings throughout Quarter 3. Certain trainings were targeted toward the team as a whole, while others concentrated work with the component and crosscutting leads. The highlights included:

- *Process maps workshop.* To review the finalized 26 process maps that the teams created in Quarter 2. These are not a comprehensive list, but supplied the team with the know-how and understanding of how to create these maps, and revise them accordingly. The next step is to review the maps with the team, and put the appropriate system in place to revise if/when necessary.
- *Financial Management and Internal Control.* This three-day workshop provided the team with a general understanding of best practice in terms of financial management and how to put in effect internal control systems. It also showcased the need to segregate duties and avoid conflicts of interest, as well as ensure the policies were clear and concise when providing guidelines.
- *UNOPS' assessment and planning workshop.* This was a review of UNOPS' annual work plan and where the work stands for WildTeam, and what UNOPS would like to deliver before the year's end.
- *Additional meetings and workshops.* Throughout the quarter, UNOPS meets with targeted team members and individuals to assess HR, procurement and financial policies. UNOPS has hired additional consultants for these priority areas to assist with their three projects under USAID. These consultants have been working closely with the WT HO as well as some Bagh staff to improve upon current systems.

Technical Implementation Activity

Component 1 (Expanded knowledge base): Quarter three was busy for Component 1, as the WTS hired 4 research officers to implement various research activities under Bagh, we had more than a dozen meetings at various levels and with various key players with the Forest Department and USAID to discuss the research agenda for this field season, and a key training that kick-started Component 1's capacity building. All of them are Bangladeshi citizens and have Masters in their respective fields.

- Research Officer: Habitat and Mangrove monitoring
- Research Officer: Disease Monitoring
- Research Officer: Wildlife Monitoring
- Research Officer: Conservation Genetics

Link Research to Management Interventions

The research team organized their first in a series of capacity building workshops dedicated to wildlife research programs. This "boot camp", entitled the Wildlife Study Design and Data Analysis is the first of its kind to be conducted in Bangladesh. Three internationally renowned trainers from Biodiversity Conservation Society of Sarawak (BCSS) and WCS Malaysia trained a total of 21 participants from August 22-September 3, 2015. The outside participants were selected from a pool of 67 applicants through a rigorous selection process:

- 8 from the Bagh research team;
- 2 from Forest Department, nominated by our PD;
- 7 from different academic institutions, NGOs and wildlife research groups here in Bangladesh: University of Dhaka; Jahangirnagar University; University of Chittagong; Jagannath University; WCS-Bangladesh; Bangladesh Bird Club;

Spoonbill Sandpiper Project; and Center for Advanced Research in Natural Resources & Management (CARINAM)

- 4 from Bhutan, India, and Nepal: Centre for Molecular Dynamics Nepal (CMDN); Friends for Nature-Nepal; Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation & Environment (UWICE) Bhutan; and Columbia University, USA.

The BCSS and WCS team of trainers also facilitated a four-day long workshop for the Bagh research team from September 8-11 in 'Modeling and Simulation in R'. In this workshop, the team learned about simulating and modeling data for wildlife monitoring in order for the team to design and plan the project's monitoring programs and tools in relation to the Sundarbans ecosystem and landscape. The ICT team supported the training and logistics, and data was captured for TraiNet.

The WTS began and is currently advising (pro-bono) WCCU to set up a forensic lab on the request of the Forest Department PD of the SRCWP project. During this quarter, he reviewed their overall requirements of the lab and provided feedback on what kind of equipment to procure based on those requirements. Dr. Syed Hossain (Lab in-charge), Mr. Konok Roy (Senior technician), and Md Akbar Hossain (PD, SRCWP) have recently requested Dr. Sharma to help them in designing the lab, most likely to be provided throughout Quarter 4. This has become and developed trust and a working relationship between the organizations and projects.

Conduct Focused Research

Field orientation of these new researchers and other personnel from the research team was held in the Sundarbans during the first week of September. They were trained in map reading, GPS use and navigation, monitoring of tiger and prey, sample collection for DNA study, and field safety protocol. We also did field trial of various field equipment: two type of camera traps for monitoring; GPS data loggers; and GPS units.

On September 21, 2015, a meeting was convened at the Forest Department, chaired by the CCF, to discuss the research agenda in detail as well as SMART patrolling. The two principle presenters were Dr. Sharma from Component 1 and Mr. Craig Fullstone from Panthera. The meeting was useful to answer any questions related to SMART patrolling, as well as put SMART patrolling and the significance of camera trapping into context to understand the relationship and interdependency for the ultimate goal of effective tiger conservation, in addition to one component of providing sound natural resource management to the Sundarbans as a whole. Based on the meeting minutes, we received approval for camera trapping, but required Ministerial approval to clarify the role camera trapping has on the project (monitoring vs. assessing and censuring).

CEO WildTeam, Bagh's COP and DCOP, USAID and Panthera representatives and key official attended this meeting from FD. Following the meeting, the research team updated the software and prepared Panthera's 125 tiger camera traps for field deployment and worked closely with Panthera to develop monitoring protocol while we await approval from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, and hopefully start camera trapping mid-November of Quarter 4.

Create structure for collaboration, learning and inspiration

Dr. Sandeep Sharma along with Dr. Nasir Uddin participated in the 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology and the 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB-ECCB2015) held from August 2-6, 2015 at Montpellier, France where he co-authored two posters: "Human-tiger conflicts in the Bangladesh Sundarbans: Patterns and processes" (Lead author from WildTeam) and "Beyond boundaries: Prioritizing habitats outside protected areas for conservation of large carnivores" (Lead author from TNC and Columbia University). Additionally, Dr. Sharma was invited to give a presentation entitled 'Genetic variation, structure, and gene flow in a sloth bear meta-population in the Satpura-Maikal landscape of Central India'.

Component 2 (Reduced illegal wildlife trafficking): As a result of the organizational chart structure, Component 2 now has a Law Enforcement Manager position to lead this work's efforts. This quarter, Component 2 focused on mobilizing patrolling initiatives such as SMART patrolling, community patrolling group formation, continuing law enforcement monitoring initiatives that includes wildlife crime monitoring, information collection, investigation, hotline operation and reporting.

Identify gaps in wildlife crime response and create realistic solutions

A scope of work was written based on the TNA general concept note from Quarter 2, and Dr. Tony Lynam was hired through a competitive recruitment process to perform the TNA. The TNA includes the key training needs to combat wildlife crime, through organized strategy sessions and surveys. In addition, ICCWC toolkit analysis recommendations will be taken under consideration and a training matrix will be developed for different levels of FD staff and WCCU. The first visit of Antony has been postponed due to recent security issues in Bangladesh. The Bagh ICT team, who is providing technical and logistical support to Dr. Lynam, has rescheduled the trip for Quarter 4, and the expectation is to complete the preliminary needs report for the Forest Department and USAID to review.

Strengthen frontline law enforcement – community level

Bagh is working on Community Patrolling Group (CPG) formation with our FD, CREL and CMC counterparts in the Satkhira range. A list of VTRT members was submitted to CMC, who then vetted and verified the list of possible additional members. The FD agreed with the list and gave permission to move forward. Finally CMC formed five CPGs in Satkhira range and total 10 VTRT members are included in CPG.

The ATA work stream started drafting the CPG strategy, and anticipates finalizing it in consultation with the FD and CREL in Quarter 4. Bagh also participated in CREL and FD's inauguration of the Satkhira range CPGs in September in Munshiganj, where the FD proposed to form two more CPGs in addition to previously planned 5 CPGs for Satkhira.

Roll out a strengthened patrol monitoring system in the Sundarbans

We are happy (and proud!) to report that the Phase 1 of SMART patrolling has been completed on September 12 that covers six patrols in total. The duration of each patrol was 10 days, splitting into two teams named Team Alpha and Team Bravo. The SMART team has arrested 20 illegal entries, performed XX raids and seizures of illegal goods and poaching equipment, and arrested and handed over many criminals to the other law

enforcement agencies. A total of 60 days patrols equates to 435 hours covering around 2,483 kilometers of the river in the West Sanctuary and Satkhira range. Immediately after 6 patrolling, three assessment meetings were conducted in mid-September for further development in patrolling operation and intervention based lessons learned during Phase 1. With this review, a new plan is in place for next phase of SMART patrolling that will kick-off and provide continuous (24/7) patrolling from October through December 2015.

Develop national enforcement response

Two SMART software-based reports on six SMART patrolling have been generated through the FD lab and submitted to the Bangladesh FD and shared with USAID and Panthera, as well as the senior management of Bagh. These reports have confidential information on the human activity and what the teams have seen out in the field. This provides the team with the information and knowledge of what is being found in the Sundarbans so that Bagh can work with the FD on what (additional) preventative measures can be put in place.

Three information collection trips and field investigations have been conducted from July to September. The data has been analyzed, the wildlife crime and criminal data database were updated and a total of six crime reports have been produced and sent to the relevant law enforcement agencies. Real-time information is also shared with the FD.

A multi-agency coordination symposium entitled 'Combatting Wildlife Trafficking In Bangladesh: Protecting and Preserving Our Tigers' was held in Police Staff College, Mirpur, Dhaka where the DCOP, the Program and Partnership Specialist and our lead Patrolling specialist participated. The symposium was organized by DoJ, USAID and other US agencies and discussed the importance and relevance of how the law enforcement agencies must work together to combat wildlife poaching. The formation of a working group was a significant outcome of this symposium and Bagh anticipates networking further with the participants to support our objective to improve interagency coordination and collaboration.

At the request of our Panthera counterpart, INTERPOL conducted a daylong training on "intelligence analysis" for four ATA staff in Dhaka. SMART software based central database management has been generated in the system and all data are being managed from a master computer, resulting in a central data management system in place. The LEM unit has provided weather reports, tide-time scheduling along with a hotspots analysis of the West Sanctuary to the patrol unit during July-September SMART patrols.

Tiger Hotline regular operations

Hotline borne data has been collected, collated and inserted into hotline database in each month. Analysis of hotline borne data has been completed for Q3 and crime hotshot information has been shared with patrol unit. To publicize Tiger Hotline around the

Sundarbans, 9000 stickers have been published and 4000 stickers disseminated in all four ranges in the first phase. Tiger Hotline has been operated for 24/7 to receive calls and collect information by a group of well-trained officers on a rotation basis.

Develop wildlife crime Intel management strategy for WCCU

The Intel management strategy for WildTeam is under development. More than half of the strategy has been drafted and by end of Quarter 4, first draft shall be prepared for review.

Component 3 (Minimized human-wildlife conflicts): Component 3's lead was switched from Rezin Akter to Mahbub Alam during Quarter 3. The transition permitted Mahbub to visit the field office and invite the field staff to the Khulna range so that they can discuss the remaining work to be completed in the end of Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. In general, the regularly scheduled village forums, VTRT meetings have continued throughout the quarter: A total of 146 VTRT monthly meetings and 49 leader meetings were organized in all four ranges from July to September.

Reduce HTC in village

Workshop and consultation sessions with CREL are ongoing. There were three coordination meetings at the regional level during Quarter 3. Bagh range-level staff and respective Program Officers also joined those meetings.

The team tried to recruit for a sustainability workshop facilitator to discuss crafting and finalizing a VTRT sustainability plan in Quarter 3. However, no qualified candidates applied, even after re-releasing the recruitment advertisement. The team is now looking at alternative ways to perform the workshop with the assistance of the ICT team and DCOP. The team plans to conduct this workshop early in Quarter 4 so a final sustainability plan can still be anticipated prior to the end of 2015.

Adopt sophisticated tools for conflict prediction.

This work is contingent upon the research component for this field season. Information gathered, particularly the resource mapping, will provide feedback on how to create the conflict prediction modeling. This will be initiated in Quarter 4, but continue early into Year 3, Quarter 1 and 2.

Component 4 (Enhanced communications, outreach, and gender engagement):

Once the tiger census numbers were released and confirmed, the communications team worked on updating our communications and outreach materials for public and relevant stakeholder distribution in workshops, trainings, events and celebrations to come. They also provided overall project support to the team by:

- Supporting Component 1 for printing maps and preparing poster presentation.
- Meeting with USAID for a complete guideline about Communication Strategy, Branding & Marking Plan and the outdoor branding materials.
- Designing T-shirt & Banner for Khulna FD celebrate Global Tiger day 2015 in Khulna and 4 ranges of the Sundarbans.
- Preparing a Leaflet design for Conservation Action team to celebrate Global Tiger day 2015.

The communications team met with USAID to discuss the final details to include in the project Communication Strategy, Branding & Marking Plan and the outdoor branding materials. This was submitted to USAID on August 20, 2015, and the project is awaiting approval.

The team also provides the Tiger Tuesday, our weekly newsletter providing updates and success stories of our project. Without fail, the team has produced a newsletter each week during Quarter 3, including the celebration of the 25th newsletter.

Drive positive behavior change at the community level

In collaboration with the Forest Department, Bagh celebrated Global Tiger Day on July 29 2015 at Khulna and 4 ranges of the Sundarbans. The Bagh team took a part in rally, commemoration and other activities throughout the region. The project provided support to the FD with procured goods and communications documents.

Originally, a tiger festival was scheduled locally, in parallel with the timeline of the national campaign around Global Tiger Day (July 29, 2015). Due to the delay of the national campaign and shift of National Tiger Festival from July to November, this activity has been delayed and is being considered dropped. Additionally, Phase 3 of the Motherlike Sundarbans campaign was to commence this year, but we are just launching Phase 2, the Commitment Campaign. This is anticipated to start in Quarter 4.

Deliver engaging national and international awareness-raising campaigns

The Bagh team had the pleasure of welcoming USAID's Mission Director, Janina Jaruzelski, USAID's Bagh Activity AOR, Sumaiya Firoze, and alternate AOR Colin Holmes, USAID Communication Specialist Wasif Hasan, along with Sisimpur Halum (yes, you read that correctly) who visited Bagh office on Global Tiger day on 29 July 2015. The Bagh DCOP and WTS had an opportunity to speak with the USAID Mission Director in detail on some of the project's current work and expected outcomes of this year.

The festivities continued as the Bagh team celebrated Global Tiger Day 2015 by taking part in the Dhaka rally hosted by the Forest Department. The Bagh team attended the Tiger Day commemoration in Bangladesh at the Krishibid Institute on 30th July 2015. The project provided support to the FD by contributing photos (tiger, birds and landscape to name a few) of the Sundarbans that were displayed at the exhibition; the communications team also supported the FD by procuring t-shirts and other paraphernalia as well as printing and distributing flyers and outreach documents.

The communications team, along with the Program and Partnership Specialist, attended a daylong award-giving ceremony for different brand leaders titled 'Commaward 2015' organized by Bangladesh Brand Forum on 29th August 2015 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon. This was to introduce the project to a large-scale group of organizations and companies located in Bangladesh and target some as viable partners for our project and the PPP strategy.

Gearing up for National Tiger Festival, the communications team has been busy working on outreach with celebrities and sports players, including the national cricket team. They have written a proposal for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for engaging National Cricket Team players for the conservation of Tigers and the Sundarbans.

Build capacity for awareness-building PPPs

In the restructuring of the organization chart for the project, Bagh decided to have a point person for all partnership building for the program and WildTeam as an organization in the remaining two and a half years. This position will focus on determining how best to engage the private sector, as well as ensure the project reaches its target in cost-share obligation. The organizational chart was put in effect at the end of Quarter 2, and during Quarter 3, Mr. Iqbal Hussain started formulating his approach to the private sector partnerships we are hoping to create with results and impact during the project life cycle, and one that we can continue well beyond for WildTeam. The partnership strategy is expected to be completed early in Quarter 4, and engagement with organizations, such as Brand Forum, are anticipated to gain the most momentum as we kick off our new approach.

Strengthen gender and youth engagement

The Gender Working Committee convened for their Quarter 3 meeting. Among the topics, the team discussed how to incorporate women in the current VTRTs, what main messages we want to convey during our various meetings in the field with VTRTs, BaghBondhu, community members, during trainings, etc. The gender specialist formulated the draft approach for the VTRT engagement, as well as the messaging concept-a more fully developed strategy to the Bagh Gender Approach-and circulated it to the GWC team members. They will reconvene in Quarter 4 to discuss the outcomes, lessons learned and how to finalize the approach for Years 3 and 4.

With the support of BCAS, a survey team leader was hired at the end of Quarter 2 to conduct the gender survey. In coordination with the Gender Specialist and support by BCAS, during Quarter 3, the survey team leader prepared the Bagh gender inception report, which elaborated on the concept note and included the methodology to how the questionnaire will be conducted in the field. There were multiple discussions to ensure the questionnaire covered main themes, such as:

- Identifying gender's role in conservation and biodiversity in Sundarbans' surrounding communities;
- Examine gender biased attitude which is affecting conservation and biodiversity;
- Establish a gender baseline information relating to socio-economic and environmental status;
- Assessing risk and hazard especially for women in the Sundarban community;
- Finding out alternative livelihood for women for improving their quality of lives and the lives of their families.

The survey will be conducted in Quarter 4, and participants of this survey include FTTR, VTRT, Bagh Bondhu, and Tiger Widows.

The gender specialist worked closely with the livelihoods team to determine viable alternative livelihoods for women specifically. She was engaged during the discussions with the livelihoods expert, Simon Jones, when he was in country, and this was included in the livelihoods strategy paper that was drafted in Quarter 3 (and later finalized at the beginning of Quarter 4)

We are still awaiting final decision regarding the organizational-level gender policy and sexual harassment policy that was submitted to WildTeam HO as of May 2015. Once they complete a review, the gender specialist will work with the team to finalize the documents and incorporate them into their policies.

Component 5 (Improved livelihoods for conservation): After completion of the desktop study of current livelihoods work being conducted in the Sundarbans at the beginning of Quarter 2 and the finalization of awarding the livelihoods expert consultation RFQ by the end of Quarter 2, the team mapped out their remainder year's work plan. This included field discussions focus groups, finalizing a draft plan regarding livelihoods with a market-driven, high value product approach to tie into our emerging private-public partnership strategy, and discuss these development with the forest department, principally our newly named project director.

The four Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) were conducted in 4 ranges located in the Sundarbans, with the assistance of the ICT team. Two FGD was completed at Chandpai and Sharankhola range in July 12-13, 2015 respectively. Later, the team carried out the remaining two ranges' FGDs with the livelihoods consultant, Mr. Simon Jones, on August 11-12, 2015 at Dacope Khulna range and Satkhira range respectively. The purposes of the FGDs were to find out the potential livelihoods options that the communities have seen as beneficial or appropriate for the landscape.

The team then met with the senior FD officials on August 10 in Khulna to provide background regarding our approach and understand the Forest Department's perspective on what has occurred under livelihoods with certain donors and approaches, what has worked and what hasn't. It was become clearer that the forest department viewed most livelihoods approaches as temporary fixes without long-term benefits or results. The Conservator of Forests, Khulna Circle, all the Divisional Forest Officers, PD, the Bagh DCOP and the livelihoods team were present.

Mr. Jones started discussing the opportunities available if we focused our livelihoods activities in a more strategic manner: given the resources available to this activity on the project, and the demand to create linkages with the private sector, as well as being a tiger conservation project, why not target high value products (rather than typical commodities) and present them as Sundarbans-specific for regional and possibly international markets. We discussed the viability of honey, handicrafts and ecotourism. All were verbally accepted as possible options. With this information, as well as the FGD outputs, the team outlined the Bagh Livelihoods Approach.

The livelihoods team and Mr. Simon sketched out an intermediate work plan for the remaining two years and one quarter of the program, which included targeting who our

beneficiaries were going to be and visiting local companies to gauge their interest in our approach.

- We determined our beneficiaries list from our VTRT, tiger victim/widow, safety training participants, licensed resource collectors (holding a BLC) and illegal poachers¹ in the Sundarbans under the 22 wards involved in the Motherly Sundarbans campaign. The next steps included receiving the list of BLC holders and cross-referencing all possible beneficiaries with the current livelihoods work in the field, including CREL's list. The list preparation and crosschecking began in Quarter 3, and we anticipate finalizing the beneficiary list by the beginning of Quarter 4.
- Consultant Mr. Simon Jones, Mr. Iqbal Hossain and Mr. Mahmudul Hassan visited Brac-Aarong, Jatra and Dhaka Handicrafts to gain insight into their expectations for such a collaboration, and what was needed to put in place to make it happen.

With this information, a modified detailed livelihoods approach and work plan was drafted and presented at the debrief meeting on August 20 with USAID, WildTeam and BCAS at Bagh Conference room.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

The activities initiated and/or accomplished in quarter 3(July to September 2015) are:

Field visit to ranges for spot training and follow up on M&E tools implementation

The M&E team visited all four ranges and regional office at Khulna for follow-up on M&E data collection tools implementation, data collection process as per developed guidelines, and data quality control. The team provided hands-on, on-the-spot training on M&E tools for each office visit with concrete examples. The team reviewed, in detail, how to collect data with the tools, how to verify and how to store the data.

Data Quality Assessment (DQA)

The Bagh M&E team faced DQA at Dhaka, Khulna and range level. USAID's ACME conducted the first DQA at Dhaka office. Later, the Bagh M&E team performed an internal DQA at field and regional office of Bagh Activity. To perform internal DQA, the Bagh M&E team visited three range offices (Sharankhola, Chandpai, and Khulna) and the regional office at Khulna city from August 22-25, 2015. In this regard, the team developed a DQA checklist and checked the data through paper trial, field verification. The team also visited a project site and met about 30 community people, VTRT and BaghBondhu.

Finally, the USAID's ACME team performed a field base DQA at two ranges (Khulna & Sharankhola) and regional office. In this regard, the Bagh M&E team assisted the ACME DQA team and learned various data quality assessment issues through the visit. Based on

¹Please note that this is a highly sensitive group and subject matter. The vetting process is to be created once/if the team receives the list of poachers from the Forest Department. We are awaiting this information before proceeding. Please see the detailed Bagh Livelihoods Approach for further details.

the review from the DQA, within two weeks, the M&E team updated all tools and guidelines, and shared with the implementing partners.

Performance indicators' data collection, entry and analysis

The team has collected data of seven indicators (training, Number of Laws/ policies/ strategies/ plans/ regulations, percentage of human-wildlife conflict, number of SMART patrols conducted, number of hectore coverage, number of priority research conducted) according to the maturity of implementation for the quarter 1 & 2 capturing the reporting period January to June 2015. Entered and compiled the collected data and analysis is under process.

Online database

Development of Bagh online M&E database has started. In this regard, MS. UY System has been selected through analysis of financial and technical proposal and work order has been provided to the vendor by BCAS. The vendor has started working on the development.

Major meeting/ training/workshops:

ACME M&E Working Group meeting. M&E working group meeting was held at ACME office and Bagh M&E team members participated to the meeting. Thorough discussion held on new GCC and FTF indicators and the Bagh M&E team learned about the indicators.

DQA Training. A two-day long training on DQA has been organized by ACME at hotel Six Seasons from August 30-31, 2015. The Bagh M&E team members (Dr. Gawsia, Ms. Sharmin, Mr. Adnan and Mr. Salam) were participated the training and received certificates for the successful completion of the training program.

Institutional Capacity and Development Team (Team ICT)

ICT not only provides training data into TraiNet but also maintains a training registrar for internal documentation. The team is a focal point for all components and cross cutting teams to get valid training information efficiently. In addition, ICT team prepares reports, including evaluations for many major training interventions to capture results and share with the team and relevant stakeholders.

ICT team regularly updates its database for trainings and similar interventions for all components. The database is classified into two categories: Community Beneficiary Training Database and Organizational Beneficiary Training Database. ICT has successfully updated its last version in September 2015, and continues to meet the deadlines.

ICT is leading efforts in the following:

- VTRT sustainability workshop
- TNA assessment
- Exposure visit to Chitwan National Park, Nepal, Component 2

ICT has supported the following:

- Bootcamp training
- Simulations training
- Process mapping (in coordination with UNOPS)
- Photo selection for Event Calendar (for Communications team)
- UNOPS' assessment and planning workshop

Appendix A

Attachments include:

- Tiger Tuesdays completed during Quarter 3

